

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 AID-20 SS-20 SCA-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 102304Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4740

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 8096

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PINT CO

SUBJ: NARCOTICS SITUATION IN BANANA ZONE OF URABA

REF: STATE 194263; MEDELLIN 259

1. RE THE SITUATION URABA, COL. LONDONO OF THE NATIONAL POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING SITUATION IN THIS AREA. SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE LONDONO INVESTIGATION, THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE SENT A GROUP OF UNDERCOVER AGENTS INTO THE AREA, BOTH TO INVESTIGATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS HOW TO REMEDY THE SITUATION. WE EXPECT THAT THE COLOMBIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WILL CALL ON US AT A LATER DATE TO ASSIST THEM WITH THE URABA PROBLEM.

2. WITH REGARD TO PROSECUTION OF COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS ON EVIDENCE FURNISHED BY USG, THE GOC ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS DEMONSTRATED A DESIRE TO COOPERATE. AT PRESENT, THE GOC IS ATTEMPTING TO PROSECUTE VIOLATORS IN COLOMBIA ON EVIDENCE FURNISHED BY USG IN CONNECTION WITH DEA CASE ZE-74-0005. ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THIS PARTICULAR CASE, WHAT THE FINAL OUTCOME WILL BE IS YET UNKNOWN. IF GOC PROSECUTION IS SUCCESSFUL, THIS WILL SERVE AS A PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER PROSECUTION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONS AS SUGGESTED PARA 6 STATE 194263.

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3. RE THE DEA SUGGESTION THAT THE EMB QUERY THE GOC ON EXTRA-DICTION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONALS, WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE A TOTALLY UNREALISTIC INITIATIVE THAT COULD PREJUDICE OUR OVERALL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORT.

4. FIRST, WE WOULD BE MAKING A REQUEST IN AN AREA WHERE THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVT OF COLOMBIA IS THE WEAKEST. THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF COLOMBIA IS NOT ONLY WEAK AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFLUENCE FROM BRIBERY, IT IS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THEREFORE EVEN IF WE COULD OVERCOME THE FACTORS CITED BELOW OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS WOULD BE ABOUT ZERO. DEA SHOULD REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS IN WORKING WITH THE DAS TO ACHIEVE THE INFORMAL EXPULSION OF NARCOTICS OFFENDERS WANTED IN THE US. ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION EXPULSION WAS ACHIEVED WHEN THE OPERATOR WAS MARRIED TO A COLOMBIAN CITIZEN. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY (AND WE HAVE TALKED WITH ONE OR TWO IMPORTANT LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT IT) THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO UTILIZE THE INFORMAL EXPULSION ROUTE IN THE CASE OF SELECTED COLOMBIAN CITIZENS. IN ANY CASE, FOR US TO PRESS THE GOC ON THIS UNREALISTIC REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF ITS OWN NATIONALS COULD RUN THE RISK OF LOSING THE COOPERATION OF THE GOC IN THE VITAL AREA OF INFORMAL EXPULSION. SECONDLY, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THAT THE EXTRADITION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONALS IS FORBIDDEN BY THE COLOMBIAN PENAL CODE, THAT OUR FCN TREATY WITH COLOMBIA EXCEPTS EXTRADITION OF NATIONALS OF EITHER COUNTRY, AND, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THAT THE US SUPREME COURT HAS RULED IT ILLEGAL TO EXTRADITE US CITIZENS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WE DO NOT HAVE MUCH LEFT WITH WHICH TO WORK.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, EXTRADITION, DRUG CONTROL, PENAL SYSTEM, BANANAS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, NATIONALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BOGOTA08096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740253-1129
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740961/aaaabzmd.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 194263; MEDELLIN 259
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja, REFER TO DEA>; RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS SITUATION IN BANANA ZONE OF URABA
TAGS: SNAR, PINT, CO, (LONDONO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005